

Serial No. 10/628,285
Amendment dated December 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2004

Docket No. K-0536

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, 20, 21, 23-25 and 32-42 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 18 and 20 are amended, claims 1-17, 19, 22 and 26-31 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claims 38-42 are added. No new matter is added.

Claim 18 is amended to include the features of claims 19 and 22. Claim 20 is amended to revise its dependency. Support for new claims 38-42 are found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims.

The Applicants acknowledge the indication on page 5, item 9 of the Office Action that claims 15-17, 23-25, and 29-37 recite allowable subject matter.

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 8, 2004 forwarding JP 58-116905 for the Examiner's consideration. The Examiner is requested to consider the reference.

I. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

In items 2-8, the Office Action rejects under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claims 1-8 and 27 over JP2000154920A to Oguri (hereinafter "Oguri"); claims 18-20 over U.S. Patent No. 4,857,685 to Vigano et al. (hereinafter "Vigano"); and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) claims 9, 26 and 28 over Oguri, in view of JP08090669A to Saito et al. (hereinafter "Saito"); claims 10-11 over Oguri in

view of Vigano; claims 12-14 over Oguri in view of Vigano, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,556,772 to McCammon et al. (hereinafter "McCammon"); and claims 21-22 over Vigano in view of McCammon. The rejections as to canceled claims 1-14 and 26-28 are moot. As to claims 18-22, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

The references fail to disclose or suggest a cooking chamber assembly for a microwave oven comprising an air duct having a plurality of projections which each project outward from a rear wall of a plurality of walls, and a case having a plurality of holes formed in an inner rear wall where each of the plurality of holes is configured to receive and hold a corresponding projection, as called for in claim 18.

Regarding claim 18, Vigano's distributor 22 has rear walls 19A without any projections (Figure 2). Further, Vigano fails to disclose that there are holes formed in the rear wall 41 of the oven (Figure 1). In McCammon, tabs 174 formed on a grease shield 44 are inserted into suitable receptacles 176 formed on the ceiling 20 (Figure 2; and column 9, lines 16-25). There is no disclosure or suggestion of a plurality of holes formed in the backwall 16 configured to receive the tabs 174. None of the remaining references disclose or suggest the features lacking in Vigano, McCammon or their combinations.

Consequently, claim 18 is patentable over the applied references and their combinations.

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Claims 20, 21, 23-25 and 32-37, which depend from claim 18, are likewise patentable over the applied references and their combinations for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite.

In view of the above, withdrawal of all the rejections and the allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

II. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 38-42 are allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those of claim 18. Allowance of claims 38-42 is also respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Seth S. Kim, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth S. Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Seth" and last name "Kim" clearly distinguishable.

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